

MAR 22 1967

Approved For Release 2004/06/14 : CIA-RDP69B00369R000200090034-8

RUSSIANS LINKED TO NETWORK*Italian Chutist Bagged as Spy*

ROME, March 22 (UPI) — Italy will expel one or two Russian diplomats for aiding a Mediterranean spy ring run by a parachute champion, his wife and chauffeur, reliable sources said today.

Government spokesmen said the Russians will be asked to leave possibly as soon as today. They said the Russians acted as receivers for parachutist and antique dealer Giorgio Rinaldi, 39, his wife Angela, 52, and their chauffeur Armando Girard, 40, all of whom have confessed to spying on allied bases in Italy, Spain and elsewhere, police said.

NETWORK

More persons connected with the alleged ring were arrested in Morocco, Somalia, Cyprus and Greece, the sources said. Intelligence sources called it one of the greatest espionage networks uncovered recently by western agents.

They said Mr. Rinaldi hid miniature cameras and other spy gear when he entered U.S. and other North Atlantic Treaty Organization bases in his capacity as parachute ace and instructor. They said he and his wife used coded radio messages, invisible ink and microfilm hidden in drops at such spots as the Turin zoo and imperial tombs.

The intelligence sources said Mr. Rinaldi has been under their eyes since he was seen with a Soviet lieutenant colonel in 1956. Suspicions grew as Mr. Rinaldi, formerly badly in debt, suddenly grew prosperous in recent years.

Police arrested the chauffeur

on his return from Spain March 15. The sources said police found in his possession microfilm of allied military bases in Spain. More such film was found in the Rinaldi home and antique shop, they said.

The trio implicated other persons, the sources said.

According to the reports, Mr.

Rinaldi posed as an Italian Fascist sympathizer when he visited Spain. The sources said his wife actually served in Benito Mussolini's Women's Military Corps in World War II and said, during questioning, that she did not mind serving communists because "I like working for dictators, whoever they are."